

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 223963

20

ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10

SCS-03 NASA-02 NSF-02 COME-00 EB-07 PM-04 DODE-00

NSC-05 /086 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SA:IMPIKUS  
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:IMPIKUS  
EA/PRCM:P.SMITH EA/J:CKARTMAN  
EUR/SOV:S.POLANSKY EUR/SE:JDAY  
EUR/EE:A.THOMPSON  
EUR/EE:R.MOSHER EUR/IB:MDURKEE  
EUR/WE:H.MOEN EUR/SOV:HKIRBY  
EUR/EE:T.DUNLOP  
AF/I:J.WALKER EUR/IB:WKELLY  
NEA/RA:S.PALMER

----- 050779

R 191803Z SEP 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS STATE 223963

E.O. 11652: N/A

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 223963

TAGS: TGEN, XA, XF

SUBJECT: STRAY SCIENTIFIC BALLOONS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION IN RESPONDING TO QUERIES BY HOST GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING STRAY SCIENTIFIC BALLOONS WHICH MAY BE TRAVERSING YOUR HOST COUNTRY'S AIRSPACE. SUGGEST YOU RETAIN INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE AS SCIENTIFIC BALLOON EXPERIMENT SERIES IS CONTINUING. SUGGEST NO DISSEMINATION OF THIS INFO EXCEPT IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUERIES.

2. FYI: THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (NCAR), A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, IS CONDUCTING A PROGRAM OF SCIENTIFIC BALLOON STUDIES OF TROPICAL WINDS. THIS PROGRAM IS CALLED THE TROPICAL WIND ENERGY REFERENCE LEVEL EXPERIMENT (TWERLE) AND IS FUNDED UNDER CONTRACT BY NSF- TWERLE IS A CONSTITUENT PROGRAM OF A MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WMO SPONSORED GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM (GARP). THE TWERLE SERIES WAS PLANNED FOR 450 BALLOONS. THE SCIENTIFIC RESULTS WILL BE FREELY AVAILABLE THROUGH GARP.

3. TWERLE IS SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED WITH WINDS IN THE TROPICS. ITS PURPOSE IS TO AID IN THE FORMULATION OF A MODEL OF ATMOSPHERIC DYNAMICS. HOWEVER, THE BALLOONS ARE KNOWN TO DRIFT OUT OF THE TROPICS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. EACH BALLOON IS FITTED WITH AN AUTOMATIC CUT-DOWN DEVICE WHICH IS DESIGNED TO KEEP IT FROM PASSING HIGHER THAN ABOUT TEN DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE. OCCASIONALLY THE CUT-DOWN DEVICE FAILS AND THE BALLOON GOES ASTRAY. BECAUSE OF NATURAL AGING PROCESSES, THE BALLOON MATERIAL DEGRADES AND THE BALLOON EVENTUALLY COLLAPSES AND FALLS TO THE SURFACE. THE NORMAL LIFETIME OF THESE BALLOONS IS OF THE ORDER OF THIRTY TO NINETY DAYS.

4. THE BALLOONS IN THE TWERLE SERIES ARE OF SUPER-PRESSURE TYPE, 3.5 METERS IN DIAMETER, CARRYING A PAYLOAD WEIGHING 1.44 KG. THE BALLOON MATERIAL IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 223963

POLYETHYLENE, 0.002 INCHES THICK, WITH RADAR REFLECTING METALLIZED CAP. THE PAYLOAD IS DISTRIBUTED ALONG A 30 METER LONG CABLE TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE IF HIT BY AN AIRPLANE.

5. THE BALLOONS FLOAT AT AN ALTITUDE OF 45,000 FEET, HIGHER THAN SUBSONIC CIVIL AIRCRAFT. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION NORMALLY ISSUES NOTICE TO AIRMEN ONLY

WHEN BALLOON DESCENDS BELOW 41,000 FEET. INFORMATION FROM NCAR IS THAT THESE BALLOONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT HAZARDOUS TO AIRCRAFT. THEIR POSITION IS TRACKED BY SATELLITE BUT POSITIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE DUE TO PROCESSING DELAYS. THE BALLOONS ARE LAUNCHED FROM A NUMBER OF SITES INCLUDING GHANA, ASCENSION ISLAND, AMERICAN SAMOA AND CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND. BALLOONS WHICH GO ASTRAY FREQUENTLY FOLLOW TRACKS WHICH CARRY THEM OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, TURKEY, USSR, MONGOLIA, PRC AND JAPAN.

6. SHOULD THE BALLOON PAYLOAD DESCEND TO SURFACE WITHIN YOUR HOST COUNTRY IT NEED NOT REPEAT NOT BE RETURNED. IF HOST GOVERNMENT WISHES TO RETURN THE BALLOON AND/OR PAYLOAD YOU MAY SHIP TO DR. PETER WILKNISS, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, ROOM 605, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550. END FYI. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIEFING MATERIALS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, METEOROLOGICAL BALLOONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE223963  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** IMPIKUS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750327-0183  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750934/aaaabdzn.tel  
**Line Count:** 132  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STRAY SCIENTIFIC BALLOONS  
**TAGS:** TGEN, XA, XF, US  
**To:** AF POSTS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006